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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-51. (canceled)

Claim 52. (previously presented) A method for concentrating particles from a sample, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding a sample containing particles to a centrifuge tube and
- (b) centrifuging said sample in said tube to concentrate said particles,

said centrifuge tube comprising an upper region, a middle region and a lower region wherein an inner diameter of said upper region is larger than an inner diameter of said lower region, wherein said upper region is separated from said lower region by said middle region having 1) a decreasing diameter from said upper region toward said lower region, 2) a diameter less than said upper region but greater than said lower region, or 3) a diameter equal to said lower region, wherein said lower region has a sufficiently small bore to hold an air bubble in it with an aqueous solution above and below it.

Claim 53. (currently amended) The method of claim 52 further comprising detecting a band of particles in the lower region by a detection technique, which [could] can not have been detected if the band is in the upper region by the same detection technique.

Claims 54-56. (canceled).

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Claim 57. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the sample is a biological sample.

Claim 58. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the particles are microorganisms.

Claim 59. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein at least two different fluids are present, each in different regions.

Claim 60. (currently amended) The method of claim 59 wherein said two different fluids are held separately with substantially no diffusion between [each] said two different fluids before centrifugation.

Claim 61. (currently amended) The method of claim 52 wherein [an] the air bubble separates the middle region from the lower region.

Claim 62. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the particles are concentrated in a non-terminal portion of the lower region.

Claim 63. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein a physical barrier is present that prevents the two different fluids from contacting each other